



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 27 2016

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your May 4, 2016 letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provide assistance to the City of Newburgh in testing their water supply for contamination with Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS). As you know there have been further developments on this issue in the last weeks.

On May 19, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established revised health advisories for PFOS and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) based on the agency's assessment of the latest peer-reviewed science. Health advisories provide technical guidance to drinking water system operators, state, tribal and local officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination so that they can take the appropriate actions to protect their residents. The EPA has established the health advisory levels at 70 parts per trillion (ppt) to provide Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection over a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and PFOS from drinking water. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the EPA health advisory guideline suggests that both the individual and combined concentrations should not exceed the 70 ppt level.

The City of Newburgh is no longer using Lake Washington as a drinking water source and is now connected to the Catskill Aqueduct water supply, in which no PFOS has been detected. The EPA is aware that using this water supply may have financial implications for the City of Newburgh. However, the State of New York has agreed to pay for this water supply on a temporary basis as well as the design of a granular activated carbon filtration system which may allow Lake Washington to once again be used as a source of drinking water for the city. The EPA is supporting the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as they work closely with the City of Newburgh to ensure that there will be a safe drinking water supply for the residents of Newburgh and that appropriate measures are taken to locate and abate the source(s) of the PFOS contamination. In addition, the EPA remains committed to working with the State of New York under the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect public health and reduce exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water in New York State.

On June 20 the City of Newburgh held a public meeting on the issue of PFOS in its water supply. I, along with representatives of state and county government, participated in the meeting. The EPA provided simultaneous translation services and a skilled facilitator for the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (212) 637-5000 or your staff may contact Michael McGowan, Chief of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs Branch, at (212) 637-4972 or mcgowan.michael@epa.gov.

Thank you for your work on this important health issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Judith", with a large, stylized loop on the left side.

Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2

290 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 27 2016

The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Maloney:

Thank you for your May 4, 2016 letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provide assistance to the City of Newburgh in testing their water supply for contamination with Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS). As you know there have been further developments on this issue in the last weeks.

On May 19, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established revised health advisories for PFOS and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) based on the agency's assessment of the latest peer-reviewed science. Health advisories provide technical guidance to drinking water system operators, state, tribal and local officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination so that they can take the appropriate actions to protect their residents. The EPA has established the health advisory levels at 70 parts per trillion (ppt) to provide Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection over a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and PFOS from drinking water. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the EPA health advisory guideline suggests that both the individual and combined concentrations should not exceed the 70 ppt level.

The City of Newburgh is no longer using Lake Washington as a drinking water source and is now connected to the Catskill Aqueduct water supply, in which no PFOS has been detected. The EPA is aware that using this water supply may have financial implications for the City of Newburgh. However, the State of New York has agreed to pay for this water supply on a temporary basis as well as the design of a granular activated carbon filtration system which may allow Lake Washington to once again be used as a source of drinking water for the city. The EPA is supporting the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as they work closely with the City of Newburgh to ensure that there will be a safe drinking water supply for the residents of Newburgh and that appropriate measures are taken to locate and abate the source(s) of the PFOS contamination. In addition, the EPA remains committed to working with the State of New York under the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect public health and reduce exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water in New York State.

On June 20 the City of Newburgh held a public meeting on the issue of PFOS in its water supply. I, along with representatives of state and county government, participated in the meeting. The EPA provided simultaneous translation services and a skilled facilitator for the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (212) 637-5000 or your staff may contact Michael McGowan, Chief of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs Branch, at (212) 637-4972 or mcgowan.michael@epa.gov.

Thank you for your work on this important health issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Judith", with a large, stylized loop on the left side.

Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 27 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your May 4, 2016 letter requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provide assistance to the City of Newburgh in testing their water supply for contamination with Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS). As you know there have been further developments on this issue in the last weeks.

On May 19, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established revised health advisories for PFOS and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) based on the agency's assessment of the latest peer-reviewed science. Health advisories provide technical guidance to drinking water system operators, state, tribal and local officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination so that they can take the appropriate actions to protect their residents. The EPA has established the health advisory levels at 70 parts per trillion (ppt) to provide Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection over a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and PFOS from drinking water. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the EPA health advisory guideline suggests that both the individual and combined concentrations should not exceed the 70 ppt level.

The City of Newburgh is no longer using Lake Washington as a drinking water source and is now connected to the Catskill Aqueduct water supply, in which no PFOS has been detected. The EPA is aware that using this water supply may have financial implications for the City of Newburgh. However, the State of New York has agreed to pay for this water supply on a temporary basis as well as the design of a granular activated carbon filtration system which may allow Lake Washington to once again be used as a source of drinking water for the city. The EPA is supporting the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as they work closely with the City of Newburgh to ensure that there will be a safe drinking water supply for the residents of Newburgh and that appropriate measures are taken to locate and abate the source(s) of the PFOS contamination. In addition, the EPA remains committed to working with the State of New York under the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect public health and reduce exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water in New York State.

On June 20 the City of Newburgh held a public meeting on the issue of PFOS in its water supply. I, along with representatives of state and county government, participated in the meeting. The EPA provided simultaneous translation services and a skilled facilitator for the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (212) 637-5000 or your staff may contact Michael McGowan, Chief of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs Branch, at (212) 637-4972 or mcgowan.michael@epa.gov.

Thank you for your work on this important health issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Judith", with a large, stylized loop extending from the bottom left of the signature.

Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator